

REMARKS

In the restriction requirement dated August 6, 2003, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I - claims 1-4; Group II - claim 5 and Group III - claims 6-7. Applicants elect to prosecute Group II, claim 5 without traverse.


By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 8-12. Applicants submit that each of claims 8-12 fall within elected Group II, for at least the reason that claims 8-12 all depend from claim 5. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are pending in this application, of which, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 should be withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been added by this Amendment. This Preliminary Amendment in no way manifests intent on the part of Applicants to narrow the scope of the originally filed claims. Indeed, the new claims include claims of varying scope, including claims of equivalent or broader scope as the original claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above claim amendments prior to examination of the application.

Please grant any necessary extensions of time and charge any additional fees due with the filing of this Response to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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